

Amendment to the Claims:

Applicants amend Claim 16 to substitute - - foamed extrudate - - for “extruded” in line 2. The amendment draws full support from the Application and does not constitute new matter. Instances of support include page 2, lines 15 – 29; page 20, lines 9 – 28; page 21, lines 33 – 34; and Example 1 – 6. Applicants make the same substitution in Claim 24. Applicants also add - - foamed extrudate - - to Claims 26 and 28 – 31. The amendments to Claims 24, 26, and 28 – 31 all draw support from the same sources as Claim 26 and render the claims consistent. Applicants amend Claim 23 to make it depend directly from Claim 16 rather than indirectly from Claim 16 through Claim 19. Finally, Applicants amend line 2 of Claim 26 to make “strand” plural. These amendments also have full support and do not constitute new matter.

Applicants cancel claim 20.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (withdrawn)
2. (withdrawn)
3. (withdrawn)
4. (withdrawn)
5. (withdrawn)
6. (withdrawn)
7. (withdrawn)
8. (withdrawn)
9. (withdrawn)

10. (withdrawn)

11. (withdrawn)

12. (withdrawn)

13. (withdrawn)

14. (deleted and incorporated into previously amended Claim 16)

15. (deleted and incorporated into previously amended Claim 16)

16. (currently amended) A cellular foam structure comprising a plurality of coalesced, hollow ~~extruded~~ foamed extrudate strands wherein the strands have different polymeric compositions, each composition being at least one film-forming material selected from olefin homopolymers, olefin copolymers, alkylene aromatic polymers and copolymers, polyesters and copolymers, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyimides, halogenated olefin polymers and copolymers, natural polymers, proteins, polysaccharides, thermoplastic polyurethanes, and blends of polystyrene and ethylene/styrene interpolymer.

17. (previously amended) The structure of Claim 16, wherein the foam has a closed cell content, as determined in accordance with ASTM D-2856A, of greater than 50 percent, based on total number of cells, not including interstitial channels or voids between foam strands or channels within the hollow strands that form at least part of the foam structures.

18. (previously amended) The structure of Claim 16, wherein the foam has an open cell content, as determined in accordance with ASTM D-2856A, of greater than 50 percent, based on total number of cells, not including interstitial channels or voids between foam strands or channels within the hollow strands that form at least part of the foam structures.

19. (previously amended) The structure of Claim 16, further comprising a plurality of solid foamed strands.

20. (cancelled) ~~The structure of Claim 16, wherein the film-forming material is a cross-linkable polyol-isocyanate blend and the foam further comprises at least one cross-link promoter such that the structure, following exposure to cross-linking conditions, is a thermoset structure.~~

21. (previously amended) The structure of Claim 16, wherein foamed portions of the structure have a foam density within a range of from 0.35 to 60 pounds per cubic foot (6 to 960 kilograms per cubic meter).

22. (previously amended) An article of manufacture fabricated, at least in part, from the foam structure of Claim 16, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of sound insulation structures, thermal insulation structures, energy absorbing structures, packaging structures, cavity filling structures, air distribution structures, filter structures, impact energy management structures, surface leveling structures, fluid and gas absorption and retention structures, object supporting structures, bedding structures, integrated building structures and geophysical structures.

23. (currently amended) An article of manufacture fabricated, at least in part, from the foam structure of Claim ~~19~~ 16, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of sound insulation structures, thermal insulation structures, energy absorbing structures, packaging structures, cavity filling structures, air distribution structures, filter structures, impact energy management structures, surface leveling structures, fluid and gas absorption and retention structures, object supporting structures, bedding structures, integrated building structures and geophysical structures.

24. (currently amended) The structure of Claim 16 further comprising a facing material selected from the group consisting of gypsum board, cementitious board, plywood and oriented strand board, the facing material being adhered to at least an external surface portion of the coalesced, hollow ~~extruded~~ foamed extrudate strands.

25. (currently amended, previously added) The structure of Claim 16, wherein at least selected hollow foamed extrudate strands are composed of two or more dissimilar materials, said materials being polymeric, organic or inorganic materials.

26. (currently amended, previously added) The structure of Claim 25, wherein one of the dissimilar materials is the polymeric composition that comprises the hollow foamed extrudate strands and a second dissimilar material is a layer disposed on an inner surface of the hollow strands.

27. (previously added) The structure of Claim 25, wherein one of the dissimilar materials is the polymeric composition that comprises the hollow strand and a second dissimilar material is a layer disposed on an external surface of the hollow strands.

28. (currently amended, previously added) The structure of Claim 26, wherein a dissimilar material is a layer disposed on an external surface of the hollow foamed extrudate strands.

29. (currently amended, previously added) The structure of Claim 28, wherein the dissimilar material on the external surface of the hollow foamed extrudate strands is the same as the dissimilar material on the inner surface of the hollow strands.

30. (currently amended, previously added) The structure of Claim 28, wherein the dissimilar material on the external surface of the hollow foamed extrudate strands differs from the dissimilar material on the inner surface of the hollow strands.

31. (currently amended, previously added) The structure of Claim 16, wherein the foam portion of a hollow foamed extrudate strand has an average cell size that ranges from 25 to 7,000 micrometers.

32. (previously added) The structure of Claim 31, wherein the average cell size ranges from 50 to 2,000 micrometers.

33. (previously added) The structure of Claim 31, wherein the average cell size ranges from 100 to 1500 micrometers.